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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER	
EDWARDS, LAURA ESTELLE	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
1734	

DATE MAILED: 11/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/636,020	NGUYEN, TUE	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Laura Edwards	1734	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *16 September 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *40-59* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) *51-59* is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *40-50* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on 9/16/05 is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103

Claims 40, 41, and 46-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 1O3(a) as obvious over Cheng et al (US 5304248 or US 5851299) for reasons presented in the previous office action.

Claims 40-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Stevens et al (US 5632873) for reasons presented in the previous office action.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 9/16/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant contends that claims 40-50 are patentably distinct over the prior art to Cheng et al because Cheng et al do not explicitly recite that the shield is comparable weight as the workpiece and is replaceable. This argument is not deemed persuasive because both patents to Cheng et al provide a shield capable of being made from the same material of the workpiece, silicone. Inherently, if not obvious, one ordinary skill in the art would expect the shield to be of a comparable weight as the workpiece since both are capable of being made from the same material, silicone. Regardless, the workpiece which can comprise at least one coating layer already, can be made to have any predetermined weight when being further processed using the shield. The fact that both the workpiece and the shield can be made of silicone material; a

relatively inexpensive material would lead one to recognize and appreciate the shield to be disposable or replaceable.

Applicant contends that the Cheng shield would not be of comparable weight as the workpiece because of the size, thickness, and/or volume the shield takes up as shown in Figs. 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8. This argument is not deemed persuasive because the drawings are not drawn to scale to discern dimensions including thickness, diameter, volume and/or density. Furthermore, the weight of the workpiece depends upon the material from which it is made including the weight of any additional layers of coating material thereon during the time of processing with the shield.

Applicants contend that Stevens discloses the shield to be weighted to have a force to overcome the adhesive strength of the bridging layer formed of the deposited material, estimated to be anywhere between 0.25 pounds to 2 pounds (col. 14, lines 59) and knowing that a eight inch semiconductor wafer weighs at least half as much would remove Stevens as anticipating the claimed invention. This argument is not deemed persuasive primarily because Stevens does not teach or suggest his deposition system being used explicitly with an eight-inch semiconductor wafer. Stevens further recognizes that the inner ring (11) or shield does not even have to be used to apply a force but as a cover shield. This would imply that the shield would not have to be weighted since no force would be necessary. Regardless, Stevens would still anticipate/render obvious the claimed invention because the materials used to make the shield or inner ring (11) can include known electrically insulating material that would include silicone.

Applicant contends that from the design of the Stevens system, the shielding (11) would not be easily replaced because it would be blocked by the outer ring (12). This argument is not

deemed persuasive because the shielding (11) and outer ring (12) only contact at the area (51) wherein pins (49) extend into recesses (51) in the inner ring or shielding (11) (see col. 13, lines 23-28). The removal of the inner ring would not be difficult at all.

Applicant contends that claims 40-50 are patentably distinct over the prior art to Stevens because Stevens does not explicitly recite that the shield is comparable weight as the workpiece and is replaceable. This argument is not deemed persuasive because Stevens provides a shield capable of being made from any known electrically insulative material and that would include silicone. Regardless, the workpiece which can comprise at least one coating layer already, can be made to have any predetermined weight when being further processed using the shield. The fact that both the workpiece and the shield can be made of lightweight, relatively inexpensive materials would lead one to recognize and appreciate the shield to be disposable or replaceable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 51-59 would be allowable.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

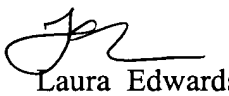
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura Edwards whose telephone number is (571) 272-1227. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Fiorilla can be reached on (571) 272-1187. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Laura Edwards
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1734

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November 21, 2005